

SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Wednesday, November 17, 1999
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Prince Kuhio Federal Building

Meeting Minutes

Attendance

SAC Members Present: Ron Bass, Sallie Beavers, Hannah Bernard, James Coon, Margaret Dupree, Bill Friedl, Walter Haas, June Harrigan, Craig MacDonald, Charlie Maxwell, Patty Miller, Paul Nachtigall, Dick Poirier, Glenn Soma, Mike Stanton, Mike Tosatto, Jeff Walters, Terry White.

SAC Alternates Present: Carl Berg, Linda Bruckner, Isaac Harp, Rey Jonsson, Jeff Kalbach, James Maragos.

Excused: Lou Herman, Bill Lennan, Colette Machado, James Keli'ipio Mawae, Greg Kaufman, Paul Nachtigall, Bob Schroeder, Claud Sutcliffe.

Others Present:

NOAA: Jean Souza, Allen Tom.

Pacific Whale Foundation: Robin Baird, Rob Wilder.

Distributed Materials

- Meeting Agenda
- Final Meeting Minutes

Welcoming Remarks

The meeting was called to order at 10:0 a.m. by SAC Chair Jim Coon.

Chair's Report

Mr. Coon announced the importance of the subcommittees bringing to the meeting of the whole any action-oriented agenda items.

Patty Miller reiterated Mr. Coon's thoughts and requested that our procedural processes be investigated by a subcommittee to prevent our committee as a whole from bogging down.

Charles Maxwell pointed out that it is the responsibility of the Chair to oversee the subcommittees and to make sure that meetings are occurring.

Sanctuary Manager's Report

Allen Tom reported on the following:

- A. The Oahu office is temporarily closed this week due to training and other activities.
- B. The Ocean User's Workshops have been scheduled for Kauai, Kona, Maui, and Honolulu.
- C. The Biennial Marine Mammal Conference will be held on Maui.
- D. The Coral Reef Task Force will be meeting in May 2000 in Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary, with help from the Hawaii Sanctuary.
- E. LFA comment period is still open for comments. Deadline is 22 November. (Hannah Bernard requested that the group vote on comments drafted by the Conservation Committee, but was overruled by Mr. Tom due to the absence of Conservation chair, Lou Herman. Mike Stanton read an article concerning NMFS' "conflict of interest" in issuing a permit for the LFA project. Robin Baird of Pacific Whale Foundation distributed his organization's comments to NMFS/OPR regarding this matter.)
- F. Sustainable Seas Expedition (SSE) will be the focus of staff efforts from now through January.
- G. The next SAC meeting will be on 14 January on Maui. It will be a field trip to the NOAA ship Ka'imimoana.
- H. SAC officers' times are up in March. The March meeting will include election of officers.
- I. All SAC member terms are up this coming summer with the exception of the county representatives, education, research and conservation. These terms will expire in the summer of 2001. Nancy Foster will approve the SAC membership and wants to "see new blood" for non-governmental representatives.
- J. Terry Garcia has left his position in NOAA.
- K. Can the SAC develop a "report card" or criteria for the Sanctuary on what the SAC was to do and what was accomplished? (June Harrigan commented that such measures need to be concrete.)
- L. Budget - Sanctuary program may not have the final budget numbers until March. The Sanctuary will not be initiating any new projects.
- M. Senator Inouye's office has funded \$500,000 for an international marine debris conference to be held in August or September at the Hawaii Convention Center.
- N. The NMFS/NMS brochure on marine wildlife viewing was distributed.

State Co-Manager's Report

Jeff Walters presented the following:

- A. LFA/NMFS permit: DLNR submitted comments on the LFA EIS but is not sure if DLNR will comment on the NMFS permit. It is not likely that comments on the NMFS permit will be made within the public comment period. Dr. Walters asked for the SAC's input.
- B. ATOC: DLNR submitted comments on the EIS.
- C. Maalaea Harbor Expansion: Mitigation meeting outlined some of the issues. For example, surf, water quality, marine mammal mitigation measures. Dr. Harrigan asked questions about coral transplantation, such as whether it is realistic, will it have success with large heads whereby encrusting corals are killed?
- D. Public Outreach Coordinator: The deadline for applications is on Friday. Dr. Walters hopes to hire by early January.
- E. The State is enabling Lahaina Harbor access for the SSE project.
- F. Scientific collecting permits: The State has issued 6 permits.
- G. New e-mail address: Dr. Walters announced his new address:
jeffrey_s_walters@exec.state.hi.us

Following Dr. Walters' report, Ms. Bernard complimented Dr. Walters' work and encouraged comments on LFA. Dr. Harrigan noted that many small boat harbors are destined for expansion due to cruise ship increases, example: Lahaina.

Research Committee Report

Research Chair Paul Nachtigall was not present. Dick Poirier asked that Mr. Coon appoint vice-chairs to each committee. Mr. Tom replied that committee chairs should be consulted beforehand. Ms. Miller appointed Ms. Bernard as vice-chair of the Education Committee.

Dr. Walters gave a brief update on the \$40,000 in research funds that the State will administer. Dr. Walters, Naomi McIntosh and Dr. Nachtigall have started on a scientific research plan indicating priorities and selection criteria. This will be fleshed out in the working group and brought to the SAC, probably in March. Mr. Coon encouraged that it be done by December so that it can be implemented during this year's whale season. Dr. Walters indicated that this could be done if the Research Committee can get together by December.

Mr. Tom stated that by January, the Sanctuary program is considering providing each NMFS researcher with \$2,000. The Sanctuary needs to develop guidelines on what the researchers should be doing.

Conservation Committee Report

Conservation Chair was not present; no report was submitted.

Education Committee Report

The website work has started but it still needs content. Contributions on content were solicited. Work on regulations, kid's things and meetings are needed. Work should be sent to Kellie Araki. Ms. Miller passed around a sign-up sheet for other websites and a brief summary. Craig MacDonald suggested that the website be linked to all of the sites represented by the SAC.

Hawaii County Report

Sallie Beavers stated that she has been attending every kind of community meeting on the Kona side and getting herself known. Meetings of interest: Co2 Sequestrations and Act 306. Ms. Beavers indicated that she will send out a Sanctuary update newsletter after each SAC meeting. She noted that the Sanctuary's history is controversial and many Kona residents did not know that the boundaries included part of West Hawaii. People reportedly want to participate in various ways (e.g. marine debris pick-up). She indicated that there is a need for a Big Island Sanctuary representative. Mr. Tom noted that an office is desired in Kona but due to past history, it was not prioritized. If there is demand for it, it will be reconsidered.

Regarding SSE, she indicated a conflict between the SSE teachers' workshop and the Kona Ironman event, so many could not participate. Those that did however loved the workshop held on Oahu. She also indicated that she would like to see a Kona Sanctuary Open House scheduled for SSE.

Kauai County Report

Walter Haas mentioned that the search for an office facility continues. Sylvia Earle came to Kauai for an SSE event. Jean Souza reported that there was excellent response and publicity for this event. The next event will be the Family Ocean Fair at Kilauea Point in March.

Honolulu County Report

Bill Friedl submitted an island report.

Maui County Report

Ms. Bernard indicated that meetings are planned for December. She wants three meetings in different locations. LFA and the shallow water testing range generate continued interest. Ms. Bernard wants these two projects addressed at the county meetings. There is a beach cleanup on Lanai.

Presentation: Cultural Importance of Humpback Whales to Native Hawaiians

Charlie Maxwell opened his presentation with a chant to the aumakua. An explanation was given on Haloa and the origin of Kaho'olawe. References were made to Pele origins and the Kumulipo chant of creation, which documents the genesis of life from the lowest life forms to the complex.

Sources of Mr. Maxwell's understandings are based on information from Auntie Edith MacKenzie and Mary Kawena Pukui's daughter Pat Bacon. Early chants refer to the Lae O Na Kohola. Explanations were given on aumakua.

Mr. Maxwell reminded the SAC that oral traditions were very important to the Native Hawaiians. Just because it is not written does not mean that it is not important to the Hawaiians. Much of the language is not readily transferable to paper form, thus much of it is lost in history.

SAC members generally expressed a great debt of gratitude to Mr. Maxwell for sharing his mana'o and indicated that they would like to hold a place for the cultural perspective in management. Jeff Walters stated that he would like the Sanctuary program to conduct further research to better understand and interpret the cultural geography of the Sanctuary, to make people more aware of how Native Hawaiians managed marine resources in the Sanctuary. Hannah Bernard asked if this could mean creating a cultural overlay for a Sanctuary GIS and Dr. Walters agreed that this would be an important product of the work he was proposing.

Sustainable Seas Expedition Update

Ms. Miller indicated that when SSE returns in the next 1-3 years, they will go to Kona.

A tentative schedule was presented:

- January 9, Sunday NOAA ship Ka'imimoana leaves Oahu for Maui
- January 11, Tuesday Sub testing; live broadcast of KidScience with Dr. Earle
- January 12, Wednesday Dive; teachers & kids at sea
- January 13, Thursday Dive; high school students on NOAA ship
- January 14, Friday Dive; 4 submarine dives; media day
- January 15, Saturday Dive; Maui open house
- January 16, Sunday Dive
- January 17, Monday Dive
- January 18, Tuesday Ship leaves; KidScience
- January 20, Thursday Student Summit
- January 22, Saturday Open House in Honolulu

There will be 2 dives per day; 4 hours each. All January broadcasts of KidScience will be on the Sanctuary. Ms. Miller also presented a report on the SSE teachers' workshop on Coconut Island. Dick Poirier suggested getting a proclamation from the Governor for a press opportunity and from the mayors of Honolulu, Maui and Hawaii. Ron Bass suggested having a weather contingency to take students to the aquarium, etc. June Harrigan suggested that the UH Meteorology Dept. be asked for a long-term weather forecast. Mike Stanton suggested that we capitalized on the millennium; emphasizing sustainability for the next millennium.

New Business

Mr. Poirier reminded the group that handouts will be sent to those who were absent. He also reminded SAC members to return the survey forms to Kellie Araki by December 15, 1999. These surveys will be used to determine SAC goals and criteria.

Craig MacDonald suggested the need to emphasize the value-added/certification aspect of NOAA training. He suggested that the Sanctuary create a hotlink to or add a list of companies that have attended NOAA training.

Charlie Maxwell made a motion to send reminders to all SAC members that they go through the Chair on any issues and not contact the Sanctuary staff directly. The motion carried.

Jim Maragos requested that the Sanctuary add meaningful coral reef protection efforts to its program. He suggested the need to take advantage of the Coral Reef Task Force meeting in Fagatele (American Samoa) and mentioned the favorable predisposition of the Clinton Administration toward reefs.

Craig MacDonald asked if there is a process for adding new species/resources to the Sanctuary. Dr. Harrigan and Mr. Tom indicated that we are over-committed with whales alone. A question was posed on whether we can develop better linkages to other groups who are leading the way. Ms. Beavers questioned whether coral are key species. She stated that many opponents wanted the Sanctuary to be a multi-species sanctuary and would support it. There is a general feeling or desire to wait to add resources/species to the Sanctuary until after the redesignation process.

Comments from the General Public

Robin Baird suggested that the SAC not be discouraged from bringing up issues even if the Sanctuary staff cannot support it. He encouraged comments on ATOC/LFA permit to NMFS. Dr. Baird also stated that Canada may be delisting humpback whales by the Spring.

Rob Wilder commended Jeff Walters on the state's comments on LFA and encouraged SAC comments. Dr. Wilder also stated that the SAC should take a position on the CO2 sequestration project.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next SAC meeting will be held on **Wednesday, March 1, 2000** at the Honolulu Airport on Oahu.